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U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/517,234
Response to Office Communication Mailed September 19, 2006

PATENT
Attorney Docket # 4-22696

Remarks

Claims 1-9 are currently pending.

Claims 1-9 are currently rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Benz et al. (US 3,170,911). The Examiner also rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morimitsu et al. (US 5,037,965). Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Letman et al. (US 5,973,147). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Benz et al. discloses the use of reactive dyestuffs for dyeing, padding and printing textile fiber material. The Examiner refers to column 3, line 74 to column 4, line 2 in Benz et al. as disclosing the after-treatment of such dyed textile fiber material with hydrosulfite. Applicants respectfully submit what Benz et al. in fact discloses is dyeing and printing of the reactive dyestuffs on "fibers of natural or regenerated cellulose... are white dischargeable with neutral or alkaline pastes or solutions containing e.g. sodium hydrosulfite, sodium formaldehyde-sulfoxlate, etc." See US 3,170,911 at col. 3, line 70 to col. 4, line 2. Thus, Benz et al. discloses the use of sodium hydrosulfite in the discharge printing of natural or regenerated cellulose and not in the after-treatment of dyed or printed synthetic polyamide as presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicants request the rejection based on Benz et al. be withdrawn.

Morimitsu et al. discloses a method of dyeing natural or synthetic polyamide fiber materials with reactive dyes in an "acid or weak acid bath, while controlling pH value,

and then making the bath neutral, or in some cases alkaline, to perform the fixation." See *US 5,037,965* at col. 12, lines 21-26. Morimitsu et al. further discloses that in order to achieve a level dyeing, "a conventional level dyeing agent such as a condensation product between cyanuric chloride and . . . aminobenzenesulfonic acid or aminophthalenesulfonic acid or an addition product between stearylamine and ethylene oxide" may be used. See *id.* at col. 12, lines 27-33. Morimitsu et al. neither discloses nor suggests either a reducing agent or the use of a reducing agent in the after-treatment of dyed or printed synthetic polyamide fibre material as presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection based on Morimitsu et al. be withdrawn.

Finally, Lehman et al. discloses the use of reactive dyes in the dyeing or printing of natural or synthetic polyamide fiber materials. Lehman et al. further discloses customary additives such as "wetting agents, antifoams, leveling agents, . . . softening agents, additives for flame-resistant treatment or soil-, water- and oil-repellant agents, as well as water-softening agents and natural or synthetic thickeners" may also be used. See *US 5,973,147* at col. 20, lines 11-21. Lehman et al. neither discloses nor suggests either a reducing agent or the use of a reducing agent in the after-treatment of dyed or printed synthetic polyamide fiber material as presently claimed. Applicants respectfully request the rejection based on Lehman et al. be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehman et al. in view of Benz et al. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit claim 8 is not obvious based on Lehman et al. in view of Benz et al. In particular, Benz et al. teaches the use of sodium hydrosulfite in the discharge printing of cellulose

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fibers. One of ordinary skill in the art, when confronted with the problem of improving fastness properties of dyed materials, would hardly take into consideration a substance which destroys coloration. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 103(e) be withdrawn and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance toward the pending claims.

Should any fee be due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to deduct said fee from Huntsman Corporation Deposit Account No. 08-3442.

Respectfully Submitted,

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